Listing of the Claims:

- 1-55 (canceled)
- 56. (previously presented): A computer system for backing up software stored persistently, comprising:

a software executable having an application programming interface for providing information of the software execution state;

a backup program for invoking the application programming interface for retrieving information of the software execution state; and

a storage device for persistently storing the information of the software execution state retrieved by the backup program on a medium.

- 57. (previously presented): The system of claim 56 further comprising a backup device for persistently storing operating system files and system configuration data.
- 58. (previously presented): The system of claim 56 further comprising a restore program for restoring the software executable using the information of the software execution state persistently stored on the medium by the storage device.

- The system of claim 57 further 59. (previously presented): comprising a restore process for restoring the select operating system files using the system configuration data persistently stored by the backup device.
- 60. The system of claim 56 wherein the (previously presented): software executable comprises an application program.
- The system of claim 56 wherein the 61. (previously presented): software executable comprises an operating system program.
- 62. The system of claim 56 wherein the (previously presented): application programming interface comprises a backup application programming interface for collecting information on the state of an executing program.
- The system of claim 56 wherein the 63. (previously presented): application programming interface comprises a backup application programming interface for writing information on the state of an executing program to the medium.
- A computer readable medium having 64. (previously presented): computer-executable components comprising the system of claim 56.

65. (previously presented): A method for backing up software of a computer system for subsequent restoration, comprising the steps of:

receiving information of the execution state of at least one program executing on the system;

persistently storing the information of the execution state of the at least one program;

receiving information of the system state of at least one hardware device; and

persistently storing the information of the system state of the at least one hardware device received.

- 66. (previously presented): The method of claim 65 further comprising persistently storing select operating system files and system configuration data.
- 67. (previously presented): The method of claim 65 wherein receiving information of the execution state of at least one program executing on the system comprises invoking an application programming interface for retrieving information of the execution state of the at least one program executing on the system.

- 68. (previously presented): The method of claim 65 wherein receiving information of the system state of at least one hardware device comprises receiving information of the system state of a hard disk configuration.
- 69. (previously presented): The method of claim 65 wherein persistently storing the information of the execution state of the at least one program comprises writing the information of the execution state of the at least one program to a removable medium.
- 70. (previously presented): The method of claim 65 wherein persistently storing the information of the system state of the at least one hardware device comprises writing the information of the execution state of the at least one hardware device to a removable medium.
- 71. (previously presented): The method of claim 66 wherein persistently storing select operating system files comprises writing a device driver for a backup device to a removable medium.
- 72. (previously presented): The method of claim 66 wherein persistently storing select operating system files comprises writing the select operating system files to a medium using a backup device.

- 73. (previously presented): The method of claim 65 further comprising persistently storing a recovery process.
- 74. (previously presented): The method of claim 65 further comprising persistently storing a recovery program.
- 75. (previously presented): The method of claim 65 further comprising receiving catalog information of unmodifiable files.
- 76. (previously presented): The method of claim 65 further comprising receiving registry information including system configuration data.
- 77. (previously presented): The method of claim 76 further wherein receiving registry information comprises invoking an application programming interface for retrieving the registry information.
- **78**. (previously presented): The method of claim 75 further comprising writing the received catalog information to a removable medium.
- 79. (previously presented): The method of claim 76 further comprising writing the received registry information to a removable medium.

- 80. (previously presented): A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 65.
- 81. (previously presented): A method for restoring software of a computer system, comprising the steps of:

retrieving information of a previous system state of at least one hardware device stored on a medium;

restoring the previous state of the at least one hardware device using the retrieved information of the previous state;

retrieving information of a previous execution state of the at least one program stored on a medium; and

restoring the previous execution state of the at least one program using the retrieved information of the previous execution state.

- 82. (previously presented): The method of claim 81 further comprising executing a restore process for restoring the previous state of at least one hardware device.
- The method of claim 81 further 83. (previously presented): comprising rebooting the computer system from the at least one hardware device after restoring the previous state of the at least one hardware device.

- 84. (previously presented): The method of claim 81 further comprising executing a restore program for restoring the previous execution state of at least one program.
- 85. (previously presented): The method of claim 81 wherein retrieving information of the system state of at least one hardware device comprises scanning a hard disk.
- 86. (previously presented): The method of claim 81 wherein restoring the state of the at least one hardware device using the retrieved information of the previous state comprises determining the current state of the at least one hardware device.
- 87. (previously presented): The method of claim 86 wherein restoring the state of the at least one hardware device using the retrieved information of the previous state comprises comparing the information of the previous system state of the at least one hardware device with the current state of the at least one hardware device.
- 88. (previously presented): The method of claim 81 wherein retrieving information of a previous system state of at least one hardware device stored on a medium comprises retrieving information of the previous system state of a hard drive stored on a medium.

- 89. (previously presented): The method of claim 81 further comprising retrieving registry information stored on a medium, the registry information including system configuration data.
- 90. (previously presented): The method of claim 81 further comprising retrieving catalog information stored on a medium, the catalog information including an indication of files that are unmodifiable.
- 91. (previously presented): The method of claim 81 wherein retrieving information of a previous execution state of the at least one program stored on a medium comprises retrieving information of a previous execution state of an operating system program.
- 92. (previously presented): The method of claim 81 wherein retrieving information of a previous execution state of the at least one program stored on a medium comprises retrieving information of a previous execution state of an application program.
- 93. (previously presented): The method of claim 81 further comprising retrieving a device driver for a backup device previously written to a removable medium.

- 94. (previously presented): The system of claim 93 further comprising installing the device driver to make the backup device operative.
- 95. (previously presented): A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 81.